

Budget Update – May 2011



With the same prudence and vigilance that has enabled Torrance to remain more stable than most local agencies, the City's budget team has already begun planning for the City of Torrance's next two-year operating budget for July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013. Since April, Department Heads have been

working with the City Manager on strategies to achieve a balanced budget while mitigating any negative impact to residents and holding to City Council's policy of *no lay-off and no furloughs*.

Although the recession has been declared over, the snail pace growth in the economy and high unemployment continues to impact the economy. Consequently, the City of Torrance continues to face revenue shortfalls; in the current fiscal year, 2010-2011, the Finance Department is projecting General Fund revenues to come \$2.5 - \$3.5 million below budget estimates. This shortfall can be attributed primarily to lower utility users'

tax revenues and lower investment earnings caused by historic low interest rates. What is still unknown is the impact of the State's budget on City resources. This shortfall carries over into the 2011-13 operating budget; thus, entailing difficult decisions and adjustments to achieve a balanced budget for the upcoming 2011-2013 fiscal years.

The following strategies are being explored to re-balance the budget: deleting vacant positions, transferring employees to different departments, and changes in business practices. As in the past, employee suggestions on how to increase work efficiency, reduce utility and software costs, new ways of doing business to enhance revenues and achieve savings are welcome and are being considered.

Budget workshops/public hearings will be held on June 7th and June 21st, wherein budget reduction recommendations will be presented and other ideas may be heard and discussed. City staff are encouraged to attend and meanwhile, continue to submit suggestions to assist the City's budget team in this process. Budget efficiency suggestions may be submitted to the City Manager's Office via online <http://TEN.TorranceCA.Gov/387.htm>, via hard copy or via email to Suggestions@TorranceCA.Gov.

The path to achieving a balanced budget without adversely impacting residents will be difficult. The future, however, continues to remain bright with improving sales tax receipts and the continued cooperation, and hard work of City staff. Together, the City can continue to provide residents with the quality of services they deserve.

"Together, the City can continue to provide residents with the quality of services they deserve."

Special Considerations About Retirement: What is the CalPERS Special Power of Attorney?

CalPERS Special Power of Attorney allows you to designate another person, known as your attorney-in-fact, to conduct your retirement affairs with CalPERS. This person will be able to perform important business with CalPERS on your behalf such as file your retirement application, select a retirement option, change your address, endorse checks, make federal or state tax withholding elections, beneficiary designations, or retirement benefit elections, should you become unable to act on your own behalf.

Please be aware that The Power of Attorney process can take up to 60 days to process and enter into the CalPERS system.

The Power of Attorney is a complex issue. To fully understand, you should review our Power of Attorney booklet. This booklet also contains the needed CalPERS Power of Attorney form.

You can access this booklet on-line at:
<https://www.calpers.ca.gov>

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This year the Service Awards were celebrated with a lunch time barbeque in the Torino

Plaza of the Cultural Arts Center. A delicious barbeque was served hot off the grill to city honorees who completed a multiple of five years of service in 2010. Mayor Scotto and the City Council were on hand to congratulate honorees who were recognized with gift cards and door prizes, and 12 lucky people took home sunflower and daisy centerpieces.

Doorprize winners were Jeff Cryderman, Elaine Winer, Brian Clune, Fannie Rocamora and Romilda Ostoich.

Service Awards Barbeque



Steve Saldana (10), Frank Mekrut(10), Romilda Ostoich(15), Mark Bialick(20), Beth L'Argent(30), Evelyn Simon(35) and Michael George(10)

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Benefits Desk: Dependent Child over the age of 19 on Dental Insurance

Question: I have a 21 year old, full-time student dependent child covered on my dental insurance. My child recently graduated from school, when does the dental coverage end for my dependent child?

Answer: The dental insurance coverage ends at the end of the calendar month your child graduates from school. If you have a dependent child on your dental or vision insurance, coverage ends at age 19 or if a full-time time student, coverage ends at age 23.

Eligibility for health insurance coverage for a dependent child ends at age 26 based on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Eligibility for dental and vision insurance ends at age 19, and if a full-time student at age 23.

You can find additional insurance FAQ's on the TEN or City Website.

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New Employees

1/11 - 3/11

Public Works

Lubna Arikat
Associate Engineer

Human Resources

Shawn Plunket
Home Improvement Program
Coordinator

Retirees

1/11 - 3/11

Name	Title	Ret Date	Years of Svc.
Maria Cesca	Sr. Administrative Assistant	2/3/2011	21
Charlie Cohen	Bus Operator	1/31/2011	18
Russell Rezac	Jr. Library Clerk I	1/22/2011	11
Deramus Welch	Maintenance Worker	3/10/2011	10
Elaine Winer	Human Resources Director	3/25/2011	35

Promotions

1/11 - 3/11

Police Department

Michael Estrada
Kelly Yokoe
Sergeant
Thomas Stark
Captain
Don Edmonds
Lieutenant

Fire Department

Robert Yrigoyen
Captain

Community Services

Morgan Griffin
Lead Maintenance Worker

Environmental Fair

REVIEW

The Environmental Fair was held at The Madrona Marsh on March 26, 2011. Several hundred people were in attendance to view various displays featuring energy efficient vehicles, green home improvement items, and energy efficient appliances. Workshops and information about natural landscaping techniques and water conservation were given and the Marsh provided tours of the Nature Center throughout the day. Participants visited the Environmental Commission booth to learn about the "Torrance Green Pledge" and contributed "green" ideas on how to make our City and world more environmentally friendly.

Photos courtesy Leslie Cortez



Volunteers Leslie Cortez (Community Development) & Jeff Kidd (Public Works) provide education on Storm Drains, Sewers, and Ocean Pollution Prevention.



Cyndy Rosell, Ken Brady, & Nora Duncan (Community Development) assist at Alison Sherman's (Public Works), Recycle Torrance booth

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Centennial Update



City of Torrance -1912-2012

The Torrance Centennial website is now live at torrancecentennial.org. The 2011/2012 Schedule of Events is beginning to take shape beginning with a laser light show and areal community photo taken from the Goodyear Blimp to kick off the yearlong celebration. The 33 member Centennial Committee recently introduced the logo that will appear on all Centennial related merchandise and information. The public is invited to contribute stories, photos, videos and audio recordings related to Torrance history. Contributions can be made on the website.

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Torrance Library debuts Historic Database

City of Torrance -1912-2012

The archives of the old Torrance Herald and Torrance Press, merged into the Torrance Herald-Press in 1964 are now available online in the culmination of a five-year project. The city, Torrance Historical Society and the Friends of the Torrance Library split the \$60,000 tab to digitize 56 years of Torrance history. More than 100,000 images and all the news that was fit to print from 1913 to 1969, when the paper ceased publication, is now available through a number of search options. Google has begun indexing the pages to provide global access. Congrats to Torrance Library's Hillary Theyer, Dana Vinke, Michael George and the entire team who brought this project to fruition. <http://www.torranceca.gov/libraryarchive/> This should make answering the Torrance Trivia questions a whole lot easier. . .

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CALENDAR

52nd Annual Armed Forces Day

Saturday, May 21, 2011

Parade 1:30 - 3:30

Exhibits 10AM to 7PM

eNotify

You can "Subscribe" to Info-Bits online!



An electronic service, eNotify allows anyone to receive updates on certain web pages. You can subscribe to Info-Bits and other city information updates by registering online at <http://www.torranceca.gov/20726.htm>. Once you have registered, you can choose from a menu of update notifications for various city web pages, including Info-Bits. Check the boxes to choose the information you would like to monitor and you will be emailed when the web pages are updated. Here is the process to sign up:

- Log In
- Click e-notify
- Click webpage subscription
- Under Human Resources is Retiree Resources (active employees can access this site.)
- Check Retiree Resources box
- Click save on bottom of page
- A message on top of page will say "Database updated successfully"
- Exit or log out

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Working in the Field - Streetscape Division

Public Works Department
Judy Emerson, Streetscape Manager
Rande Jacobs and Rod Crawford,
Supervisors

Streetscape Stats:
42 Employees
40,000 Trees
Value of the Urban Forest,
\$123,973,055
129 Landscape medians and parkways

Equipment:
6 Chippers
3 Flatbeds
2 Highsides
5 Boom Trucks
1 Root Pruner
1 Remote Controlled Stump Grinder
10 Parkway Vehicles

2010 Stats:
12,385 Trees Trimmed
620 Trees Planted
343 Trees Removed
924 Limbs down/hazard calls
All root pruning for sidewalk repair
Restaking
Stump grinding

The one thing we can never say?
"We're Done!", Rande Jacobs, Public
Works Supervisor.



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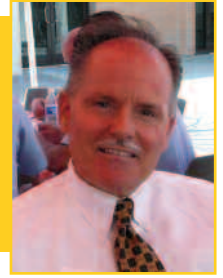


It has been a little over a year since Robert Carson assumed the role as Park Services Manager. As the Division Manager, Robert is responsible for planning and supervising the maintenance of the city's 33 parks and 45+ division employees, "The learning curve has been straight up," said Carson. "I hit the ground running and it hasn't slowed up a bit." Luckily, the Glendale native came prepared for the long haul through a combination of education and work experience.

Graduating in 1979 from Cal-Poly Pomona with a Bachelor's Degree in Park Administration, Robert began his career as a landscape foreman for a large private landscape company that had the maintenance contract with Rose Hills Memorial Park. "As a young person, it was an incredible experience to see people coping with loss every day". Robert's father, a national sales manager, suggested Robert try sales. Robert accepted a Territory Sales Manager position for a Chicago based, international manufacturer of agricultural chemicals. His territory consisted of Southern California, Arizona, Nevada and Utah and required extensive travel. "The personal growth and maturity I received from my experience of working in the private sector, especially the corporate environment was invaluable".

Then came an opportunity to work for a city; San Bernardino first and then Pomona, as a landscape foreman. He quickly promoted to Park Supervisor and then Park and Facilities Superintendent. Carson worked in Pomona for over 21 years until the recession threatened his depart-

What it Takes Robert Carson Park Services Manager



ment. "I had opportunities with other agencies, but Torrance was the city I wanted to work for," said Carson. "The team environment and sense of the community has been refreshing, and the city is so well managed and well run, it is nice to be working where people are upbeat and positive".

In addition to the day-to-day park maintenance schedule, there have been plenty of projects to keep his long days full; the pond at Wilson Park, rebuilding picnic shelters at El Retiro and Columbia Parks, a large irrigation conversion project at Columbia and the recent addition of Seaside Hero's Park to the maintenance roster. "We're working on turf and tree management plans for all the parks and a pond maintenance manual for Wilson Park," said Carson, "I'm beginning to know my way around and am feeling more comfortable here."

Robert Carson and his wife Karen of 32 years have two grown children and recently became grandparents for the first time.

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Service Awards Barbeque continued from Page 2

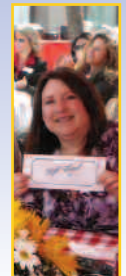


Dana Cortez(10), Jonathan Landis(10), Deborah Parr(5), Betty Perez(5)

City Manager LeRoy J. Jackson
congratulates Community Services,
Forrest Hunt on his 45 years of service.



Edward Maciel(30), Berhooz
Haghani(10), Alan Berndt(30),
Teresa Browning (25)



Continued on Page 6



Robert Beste(5), John Jones(30), Kevin Taualii(20), Patrick Wren(10), John Neu(25), Brian Clune(25)



Arturo Rodriguez(10), Jason Sorge(5), Jerry Rivera(5), Angel Valdes(20), Willie McClinton Jr.(25), Leo Montanez(5), James (Chickie) Perez(10), Anthony Rodriguez(25)

Torrance TRIVIA

Last issue's question: *During the height of the Depression, Torrance saw it's only "socialist" mayor. Who was this short termed chief executive?*

William T. Klusman (photo at right). "Mayor" Klusman, a self avowed socialist, ran for every council seat from 1922 to 1940. In 1932 he was appointed mayor and was promptly removed from office a little over a year later for "lack of dignity, secretiveness, untruthfulness, harboring destructive polices, creating class prejudice and undermining the moral of city employees".

Correct answers submitted by: **Bill Kamimura, Liza Vela, Vijay Prasad, Jeannie Fuller, Paul Hill**

Thanks to Torrance Librarian, Michael George for most of these trivia questions and answers.

Today there is no end of online resources to find and keep in touch with people. What resource in the newly debuted Library archives (<http://www.torranceca.gov/libraryarchive/>) can be used to discover past Torrance resident's occupation, address, career and more?

Send your answer to JanetStancliff3@gmail.com.



Guess Who??

This month's **Guess Who??** Is actually a **Guess What??**

This piece of equipment may not get used every day but it is essential to the work of a certain division.

Name the Division, Department and the function of this piece of equipment. Extra points for correctly naming the equipment.

Send your guesses to JanetStancliff3@gmail.com.



Submit all game responses, employee news and calendar items to: JanetStancliff3@gmail.com

Service Awards Barbeque

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Richard Jones(20), Lionel Jimenez(10), James Hatrak(20), Stephen Basile(20), Thomas Garcia(5), Tony Mulliken(25) and Vicki Sanchez(25)



Taylor Dulaney(20) and William Urquilla(20)



Transit's Theodis Bowens, Jr.(5), Rodney Freeman(15), Angie Harvey Guerra, Teresa Tucker(10)



Above: Thomas Chesney(30), Timothy Dohmen(5), James Gardner(5)



Right: Carolyn Chun(20), Randy Peterson (30), Linda Cessna(25) and Brian Sunshine(25)